



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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**Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.**

19th April 2023

PQ 16576/23: To ask the Minister for Health following the introduction of free contraception for women aged 17 to 26 years, the number of GPs who have signed the contractor details and acceptance form; if the service is accessible to women in all parts of the country; if he is aware of any waiting lists to access this service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 16574/23: To ask the Minister for Health following the introduction of free contraception for women aged 17 to 26 years and the anticipated roll out to women under 30 years from 1 September 2023, if his Department or the HSE are compiling any data on the uptake of this scheme among this age cohort; the other data in relation to this that is being compiled; if it will be used to inform the roll out to further age cohorts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Sean Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions which were received by my office for response.

The HSE launched the Contraception Service Scheme in September 2022 to provide oral, long-acting and emergency contraception for women aged 17-25. In January 2023 the scheme was further extended to 26 year olds. As at the 1st of April 2023 there are 2,539 GPs who currently hold a GMS Contract and since the Scheme was launched 93% (2,352) have signed up to provide contraceptive services. The Scheme is accessible to all women between the ages of 17 to 26 who are living in Ireland. Eligible persons can access the scheme by making an appointment with a local doctor providing the scheme. If an eligible person is unable to attend a doctor for free contraception they can also access the scheme through other providers such as the family planning clinics, women's health clinics and student health clinics. The HSE is not aware of any waiting lists to access the Scheme and are satisfied that there is a good geographical spread of GPs and Other Providers offering the Scheme.



The government has assigned approximately €32m to support free contraception in 2023. Roll out and expansion to women under 30 years from 1 September 2023 is a matter for Government and will be reviewed as part of the Estimates process leading to Budget 2024. Data relating to the scheme, is being compiled by the HSE and we are advised by the Department of Health that this information will inform further development of this scheme.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', written over a horizontal line.

**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts**